

OLC 70-0031

15 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Symington Hearings: Meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group, 14 January 1970

1. This meeting was held in preparation for the Symington hearings on Japan and Okinawa. It was co-chaired by Ambassador Brown and Mr. Joseph J. Wolf. Mr. Wolf outlined a schedule of meetings and preparation of statements for the hearings which are now scheduled to begin on 26 January 1970. The ISA representative noted that he had reorganized the questions and was proceeding on the drafting of prepared statements. Mr. Wolf queried as to whether the Director had been asked to appear. I replied that he had not and we did not expect that he would be summoned.

2. After an inconclusive discussion on how to organize the written statements with regard to sections which would be deleted for security purposes, the question arose as to whether there were any intelligence subjects to be covered. I said I had reviewed the questions and could find none pertaining to intelligence other than one relating to the Army Intelligence School on Okinawa and I felt that it was more properly in the province of the Department of Defense to answer that. Mr. John Lehman from the White House then said that he wanted it understood by the Group that the White House expected that the original agreements on intelligence testimony would stand, that is that the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the National Security Agency would be the ones to testify on intelligence matters in their particular sphere of competence. After a query from one of the State representatives, he noted that this had not been the case in recent testimony and that there had been a good deal of maneuvering on this subject. Mr. Seligmann of State then noted that the Committee expected Ambassadors to comment on the political implications of intelligence operations and that it seemed entirely proper that they do so. This view was seconded by Mr. Wolf. A DOD representative noted that the

OSD, State Dept. reviews completed

SECRET

Director had said he was ignorant of certain intelligence matters in prior testimony. I said perhaps he did not have it quite straight, that the Director had said he would not comment on intelligence operations which he did not control and therefore he may have said he was uninformed on these matters. Mr. Lehman objected that Ambassadors did not know all there was to know about intelligence operations and therefore the intent of the White House guidelines was to be sure that the most competent person testified as well as to be sure that the transcript was handled securely. Mr. Wolf rejoined again with the statement that this comment notwithstanding that the Committee expected Ambassadors to be able to comment on the political import of intelligence operations. There the matter rested.

3. COMMENT: On the basis of what is presently available, CIA seems to have no role whatsoever in the Japan/Okinawa hearings. Since we have been asked no questions and the Director has not been asked to appear by the Committee, I do not believe Mr. Lehman's comments have any particular pertinence to the immediate proceedings. They reflect more likely junior staff level annoyance in the White House that the McConaughy formula succeeded.

25X1A

Chief, Far East Division

DDP/CFE:WEN:pc

Distribution:

Orig - Legislative Japan/Okinawa file

1 - ADDP

1 - OLC

1 - ICRO